16.9. Deciding inviolate spaces for wildlife and relocation of villagers from core or critical tiger habitats in tiger reserves within a timeframe and settlement of rights (settlement of rights is a new activity) (non recurring).

16.9.1. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, as well as the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, require that rights of people (Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers) recognized in forest areas within core and critical tiger and wildlife habitats of tiger reserves and protected areas may be modified and resettled for providing inviolate spaces to tiger and wild animals. This requires payment of compensation (rights settlement in addition to the relocation package offered under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme at present). Chapter IV of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (section 24) provides for acquisition of rights in or over the land declared by the State Government under section 18 (for constituting a Sanctuary) or section 35 (for constituting a National Park). Subsection (2) of section 24 of the said Act, authorizes the Collector to acquire such land or rights. Therefore, payment of compensation for the immovable property of people forms part of modifying or settling their rights which is a statutory requirement.

16.9.2. The ongoing study and the analysis of the available research data on tiger ecology indicate that the minimum population of tigresses in breeding age, which are needed to maintain a viable population of 80-100 tigers (in and around core) require an inviolate space of 800-1000 sq km. Tiger being an "umbrella species", this will also ensure viable populations of other wild animals (co-predators, prey) and forest, thereby ensuring the ecological viability of the entire area or habitat. Thus, it becomes an ecological imperative to keep the core areas of tiger reserves inviolate for the survival of source populations of tiger and other wild animals.

16.9.3. Based on the recommendations of the professional agency, a new package for village relocation and rehabilitation has been proposed, with the following options and norms, which adequately covers the "National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007", while taking into consideration the difficulties and imperatives involved in relocating people living in forest areas.

16.9.4. The proposed package has two options, namely:

Option I – Payment of the entire package amount (Rs. 10 lakhs per family) to the family in case the family opts so, without involving any rehabilitation and relocation process by the Forest Department.

Option II –Carrying out relocation and rehabilitation of village from protected area and tiger reserve by the Forest Department.

(i) In case of option I, a monitoring process involving the District Magistrate of concerned District would be ensured so that the villagers rehabilitate themselves with the package money provided to them. In this regard, a mechanism involving handholding, preferably by external agencies should also be ensured, while depositing a considerable portion of the amount in the name of the beneficiary in a nationalized bank for obtaining income through interest generated.

(ii) In case of option II, the following package (per family) is proposed, at the rate of Rs. 10 lakhs per family, namely:

(a)	Agriculture land procurement (2 hectare) and development	:	35% of the total package
(b)	Settlement of rights	:	30% of the total package
(c)	Homestead land and house construction	:	20% of the total package
(d)	Incentive	:	5% of the total package
(e)	Community facilities commuted by the family (access road, irrigation, drinking water, sanitation, electricity, tele-communication, community center, religious places of worship, burial and cremation ground)	:	10% of the total package

(iii) The relocation process would be monitored and implemented by the following two Committees, namely:

State level Monitoring Committee consisting of:

(a) Chief Secretary of the State - Chairman

(b) Secretaries of related departments - Members

(c) State Principal Chief Conservator of Forests - Member

(d) Non-official members of respective Tiger Conservation Foundation - Members

(e) Chief Wildlife Warden - Member- Secretary.

District level Implementing Committee for ensuring convergence of other sectors, consisting of:

(a) District Collector - Chairman

(b) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) - Member

(c) Representative officials from Public Works Department (PWD), Social Welfare, Tribal Department, Health Department, Agriculture Department, Education Department, Power and Irrigation Departments - Members

(d) Deputy Director of the tiger reserve or protected area - Member Secretary

(iv) **The above cost norms are indicative in nature to facilitate flexibility for State and site specific situation, and may be modified to allow inter component as well as inter family adjustments by respective State Governments as per site specific requirements.**

(v) **The relocated village would be taken up on a priority basis for eco development as well as local development through convergence of District level schemes.**

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(vi) **The labour oriented works involved in the relocation process would be preferably implemented through the villagers who are being relocated, so that they derive benefits out of the same apart from ensuring the field implementation to their satisfaction.**

(vii) **In case resettlement has been done on a forest land, the new settlement will be eligible for access to forest resources for their bonafide use through the Village Level Committee and Gram Sabhas.**

(viii) **The District Administration would facilitate fair price shop, education, health centre close to the relocated site.**

(ix) **"Handholding" after relocation would be ensured through the forest department with ongoing ecodevelopmental inputs through Central assistance and district administration involving convergence of schemes. In this effort help of competent independent agencies may be sought wherever available.**

(x) **The relocated villagers would be given priority for livelihood options emanating from the protected area.**

(xi) **In case the cost of relocation including settlement of rights per family exceeds Rs. 10 lakhs, the State Government has to meet the extra cost.**

(xii) **The relocation process would be an open ended one, since the progress of relocation process would depend on performance by States.**

16.10 Main streaming wildlife concerns in tiger bearing forests and fostering corridor conservation through restorative strategy involving locals to arrest fragmentation of habitats (new activity) (non-recurring).

16.10.1. The forests connecting tiger reserves or protected areas have tigers and other wild animals in most of the States. At present, there is no Scheme for addressing wildlife concerns in such areas, where restorative as well as protective inputs are required. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, provides for addressing such corridor areas. This, inter alia, would involve the following, namely:

(i) Redressing man-animal conflict.

(ii) Capturing problematic and aberrant wild animals.

(iii) Monitoring of wild animals.

(iv) Antipoaching operations.

(v) Habitat improvement measures.

16.10.2. The communities living in fringe areas of National Parks, Sanctuaries and tiger reserves suffer from frequent depredation of their crops on account of damage caused by wild herbivores like blue bull, black buck, wild pig and elephants. The situation becomes acute in certain pockets, since people depend on a single annual rain fed crop with low productivity. This is one of the major reasons for man-animal conflicts around our Tiger Reserves and Protected Areas, and is a serious bottleneck in enlisting the much needed local support for wildlife conservation.